NITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant

Moser, et al.

Group Art Unit 1633

App. No.

09/802,397

Filed

March 9, 2001

For

DENDRITIC-LIKE

CELL/TUMOR CELL

HYBRIDS AND

HYBRIDOMAS INDUCING

AN ANTI-TUMOR

RESPONSE

RECEIVED

SEP 2 7 2002

Examiner

Unknown

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

PETITION TO MAKE/SPECIAL UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.102(d)

United States Patent and Trademark Office

P.O. Box 2327

Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Sir:

Applicants hereby petition the Commissioner to make the present application special in accordance with 37/C.F.R. § 1.102(d) and to advance the present application for examination based on the invention's contribution to the treatment of cancer.

The present invention relates to dendritic cell/tumor cell hybrids which are capable of inducing an anti-tumor response in vivo when administered to a cancer patient in need of treatment. Cells isolated or derived from the specific tumor against which an immune response is needed are fused with dendritic cells or dendritic-like cells, thus producing a dendritic cell/tumor cell hybrid. Several embodiments of these hybrids are summarized in pages 28-30. The hybrids exhibit characteristics of both the dendritic cell and the tumor cell, thus the hybrid will illicit an immune response, either in vivo or in vitro, against the tumor fusion partner. The immune response contributes to the rejection of the residual tumor in the patient, when the hybrids are administered in vivo. For induction of an anti-tumor response in vitro the hybrid cells

Appl. No. Filed

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are cultured with the immune cells of the patient and the activated cells are administered to the patient.

The results of in vivo treatment in mice as seen on page 60, line 10, of the specification indicate that the therapy may provide long-term tumor protection in cancer patients. Cancer therapy based on the elimination of tumor cells in vivo by the immune system offers several advantages including antigen specificity, lack of toxicity, ubiquity, and immunological memory which may provide long term resistance. The present application shows that somatic hybrid cells formed from the fusion of tumor cells and dendritic cells have the unexpected capacity to provide both antigenic and costimulatory signals to T-cells and to induce specific protection against the established parental tumor.

The invention provides a means of cancer treatment which has significant advantages over other cancer treatments and may provide an effective and long-lasting anti-tumor response in vivo. Therefore, Applicants are entitled to have this petition granted.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.102(d), Applicants file herewith the fee set forth by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(h).

> Respectfully submitted, KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

By:

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Case Docket No. DECLE55.1CP2DV Date: September 19, 2002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

I hereby certify that this correspondence and all marked Applicant(s) Moser, et al. attachments are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 09/802,397 Appl. No. 2327, Arlington, VA 22202, on Filed March 9, 2001 For **DENDRITIC-LIKE** CELL/TUMOR CELL **HYBRIDS AND** HYBRIDOMAS INDUCING AN ANTI-TUMOR RESPONSE Unknown Examiner RECEIVED Group Art Unit: 1633

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

SEP 2 7 2002

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

United States Patent and Trademark Office P.O. Box 2327 Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Sir:

Enclosed for filing in the above-identified application are:

- A Petition to Make Special Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.102(d). (X)
- (X) A check in the amount of \$130.00 to cover the fee.
- The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or (X) credit any overpayment, to Account No. 11-1410.
- (X) Return prepaid postcard.

Mark R. Benedict

Registration No. 44,531

Attorney of Record

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